

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 EB-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /063 W

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R 181230Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USUN NEW YORK 662

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MO OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOROCCO: SUBSEQUENT PRESS
REACTION

1. SECRETARY'S OCT 15 VISIT TO MOROCCO AND HIS DISCUSSION
WITH KING HASSAN RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN
SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA OCT 16. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS LAID STRESS
ON SECRETARY'S AND KING'S REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS
AND SECRETARY'S HOPE THAT ARAB SUMMIT WOULD MAKE POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION TO THESE EFFORTS. ALSO PLAYED UP WERE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF KING'S ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO VISIT US
IN SPRING 1975 AND SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT HE AND KING HAD
FOUND BILATERAL RELATIONS EXCELLENT.

2. OPPOSITION PAPERS OCT 16 DREW HEAVILY ON OFFICIAL RELEASES
TO REPORT VISIT PROMINENTLY IN POSITIVE TERMS. IN OCT 17 ISSUES,
HOWEVER, OPPOSITION PRESS CARRIED EDITORIALS QUESTIONING
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US MOTIVES AND DOWNGRADING RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE

EAST TRIP. ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION, FOR EXAMPLE, IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WASTED EFFORT," NOTED US COULD PLAY ROLE ON SAHARA BUT SAW MAIN US INTEREST AS INFLUENCING ARAB SUMMIT WITH VIEW TO PROTECTING ISRAEL AND GETTING OIL PRICES REDUCED. ISTIQLAL'S ARABIC AL-ALAM EDITORIALIZED THAT "KISSINGER FAILED" AS RESULT OF ERRONEOUS US ASSESSMENT THAT ARABS COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND TO ACCEPTING CONTINUING OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS AND THAT PALESTINIANS COULD BE IGNORED.

3. MEANWHILE, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS OCT 17 FRONT-PAGED YASSER ARAFAT'S STOPOVER IN RABAT PREVIOUS DAY AND HIS TALKS WITH KING IN PRESENCE PRIME MIN OSMAN, FOM MIN LARAKI, AND ROYAL CABINET DIRECTOR BENSOUDA (BASICALLY SAME GROUP WHICH MET WITH SECRETARY A DAY EARLIER).

4. COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS THUS ILLUSTRATES DELICACY ENTAILLED IN KING'S KEEPING FENCES MENDED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH US AND YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHER LESS FLEXIBLE ELEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD AND WITHIN COUNTRY. WITH ARAB SUMMIT ABOUT TO CONVENE, KING HAS BEEN DEFT IN THIS EXERCISE, TAKING PUBLIC CONCILIATORY STANCE EVEN TOWARD LIBYA (IN HIS SEPT 17 PRESS CONFERENCE). HIS SUCCESS THUS FAR IS REFLECTED IN EXPECTED NEAR-FULL ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT, INCLUDING SUCH RECALCITRANTS AS IRAQ'S AL-BAKR AND SOUTH YEMEN'S RUBAY. NEUMANN

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